Girl Scouts Louisiana East

DISCOVER NEW ORLEANS

HERITAGE TRAIL

Girl Scouts®

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WELCOME

New Orleans is a very special city, and Girl Scouts Louisiana East is eager to share it with you.

New Orleans is much more than Mardi Gras and music. The city covers 365 square miles - one for every day of the year - but more than 150 square miles are under water. The city is surrounded by water (it has been called the city on an island) and is divided by the Mississippi River. Very appropriately, the theme of the 1984 World Exposition was "Fresh Water - the Source of Life and Culture." New Orleans has the Vieux Carre' (the French Quarter) - Audubon Zoo - the Superdome - Lake Pontchartrain - Jazz Museums - Creole Cooking. It has everything!

TAKE THE HERITAGE TRAIL

Knowing that girls in each age level of Girl Scouting have their own particular interests and attention spans, we have devised a "building blocks" tour. There is so much to see and do, so do not limit yourself to the specific requirements.

Begin with the foundation block. The block around Jackson Square and its Louisiana State Museums (the Cabildo, the Presbytere, and 1850 House) will qualify Girl Scout Brownies for the patch and start Girl Scout Juniors - Ambassadors on their way. Every age level is expected to tour this basic block. The Louisiana State Museums are free to Girl Scouts and adults - One adult per five girls. Extra adults will be charged.*

The second block of the Heritage Trail - required for Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors - will be a wider exploration of the old city - the French Quarter, which has existed within these same boundaries since 1719. A tour of the New Orleans Jazz Historical Park is required. This plus a visit to at least one more of the interesting museums of your choice will qualify Girl Scout Juniors for the patch.

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will add a third building block. Take the guided tour, by a park ranger from the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, called the History Stroll, departing daily at 9:30 a.m. or by scheduled appointment. The next guided tour is of the Royal St. Courthouse, available by reservation Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. These two tours plus one more museum of choice will qualify Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors for their patch.

Along the way, you might want to take a ride on the oldest continuously operating streetcar line in the United States. [Cost for streetcar with "off and on," about $2.50 (*exact change is required*); time: 2-2 1/2 hours.]

Add more blocks according to the interests of your girls, the time, transportation and funds available to you. The map provided should help. As the girls bridge to the next level you may want to return to New Orleans and take in more of the sites. Remember there is only one patch for the trail. Enjoy yourselves! New Orleans is a fascinating city as we're sure you'll soon discover!

* Please call the Louisiana State Museum office at 504-568-8788 or 1-800-568-6968 in advance for reservations for the state museums M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. There is a charge for extra adults with troops. All state museums/properties are open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. except state holidays. Website: *www.lsm.crt.state.la.us*

FOR GIRL SCOUT BROWNIES

Questions to be answered at the next troop meeting by Girl Scout Brownies - Ambassadors:

1) Which country founded New Orleans?
2) Why do we have to have levees?
3) What is the name of the big square that you walked around? Why this name?
4) How did the United States get Louisiana?
5) Why did they break up all the flatboats after they came down the river?
6) What do these words mean?
   a. dredge
   b. cathedral
   c. museum
   d. slave
   e. free

FOR GIRL SCOUT JUNIORS

When you have completed the first portion of the Heritage Trail (the Jackson Square block), the troop is ready to further explore the French Quarter and its storied past by touring the New Orleans Jazz Historical Park. After the tour, choose one more museum to visit - either the Hermann-Grima/Gallier Houses, the Merieult House, or the Old Ursuline Convent.

Additional questions to be answered at the next troop meeting by Girl Scout Juniors - Ambassadors:

1) Who was Micaela Almonaster de Pontalba?
2) What were “banquettes”?
3) How small (or big) is the French Quarter?
4) Why are the French Quarter buildings mostly Spanish?
5) Who was Jean Lafitte?

FOR GIRL SCOUT CADETTES — AMBASSADORS

Having completed the first two “blocks” of the Heritage Trail, you will now explore wider still. One more museum of choice and a tour of the New Orleans Court Building and the History Stroll from the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park completes the program. Be sure to make reservations in advance for your each tour.

Additional questions to be answered at the next troop meeting by Girl Scout Cadettes - Ambassadors:

1) For what music is New Orleans known the world over? Name three famous New Orleans musicians.
2) Each Girl Scout will research one of the famous New Orleans women listed in the tour and speak briefly about her at a troop meeting.
3) How did the Garden District come to be? In what way is it different from the French Quarter (the Vieux Carre’)?
4) What is different from other places about burial in the New Orleans cemeteries?

READY...SET...GO...

Begin your trek at Decatur and St. Peter St. Jackson Square should be on your left. While walking around today, if you hear some music that sounds quite loud - that's a steam calliope - a very old kind of organ. A steamboat, which takes people on short trips up and down the river, has one of these calliopes on it. When the boat is docked, between trips, it plays this happy music for everyone around Jackson Square to enjoy. In the past, showboats used their calliopes to herald their arrival in the city. If you have the opportunity, end your day with a ride aboard the Steamboat Natchez. Daily cruises area available.

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Let's go see the river. You're very close to it, and you may have seen it from a distance. If you walk up the ramp, you will come the Washington Artillery Park with the cannon in the middle. This will provide a great view of the St. Louis Cathedral. From here you can go out to the **Moonwalk**, point **(1)** on our tour, to get an up close look at "The Mighty Mississippi." The Indians called it Miss Sipi or "Great Water" and it is! So wide, and as deep as a 20-story building in some places. This is the longest river in North America, it is more than 2,300 miles long, flowing from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Look for the dredge working in the river. The nature of a river is to bring soil toward the sea. At this curve in the river, the soil builds up on the East Bank (the bank you're standing on) which is where most of the ships need to dock. So the port commissioners keep a dredge working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year long.

Standing close to the river on the Moon Walk, do you see why this was chosen as the spot for our city to be built? A man named Jean Baptiste LeMoine, Sieur de Bienville, picked a place where there had been an old Indian trading post. The French asked him to build a city near the river, close to its end, and to name it after the Prince Regent of France - Louis Phillipe, Duc d'Orleans, or Duke of Orleans.

At that time there were no planes or trains or trucks. So things people needed had to be brought by ship - and we still do that today. Just look at all the big ships you see. Some may be docked - loading or unloading - some moving up or down the river. We have some smaller boats, called **ferries**, that take people - walking or in their cars - from one side of the river to the other. From these ferries, life on the river is really a wonderful sight. The ferries leave from a dock at the end of Canal Street. Be sure to do this with your troop if you have time.

Note the waterline. In spring the "land" side is lower than "water" side. If you're here near sunrise, notice the sun apparently rises from west of the Mississippi. Leaders should at this time explain the differences between **upriver** and **down river**. The current flows "down" even if "down" is east, west or north. "Up," at this point, is toward the bridges; "down," because of the river's twisting course, is almost directly north.

You probably can't tell from looking, but in some places, the ground of our city is lower than the water in the river. That's why we have **levees** built along the sides of the river. Levees are built in order to control the river as well as to prevent it from overflowing.

When you are ready, head back up to Washington Artillery Park and look again at Jackson Square and the buildings around it that we will visit today.

JACKSON SQUARE

We call this park **Jackson Square**. It used to have a French name - Place d'Armes or "parade ground" and then a Spanish name - Plaza de Armas. Note the plaque on the gate.

See the statue of the man on the horse in the center? That's **General Andrew Jackson**. He was the seventh president of the United States, but more important to us, he was the hero of the Battle of New Orleans - in the War of 1812. He was, I'm sure, very proud and excited when he won that battle. But what he didn't know (and neither did the British "Redcoats" who we were fighting)...was that the war had already been over for two weeks before this battle. With no daily newspapers or radios or television, news traveled very slowly. You see, that was nearly 200 years ago when our country was very young.

Look at the statue inscription. It was put there long after the statue was erected by General Ben Butler, the commander of the occupying Union Forces during the Civil War.

Jackson's real feat in the Battle of New Orleans was to unite a diverse group of people under one banner. You would expect the Creoles of New Orleans - the people of French and Spanish descent who wanted to protect their beloved city - to volunteer. But do you realize that Americans, Indians, German farmers, free men of color, slaves, pirates, and Acadians from the bayou also joined to fight along with Jackson's Tennessee Volunteers?

More than 2,000 British soldiers (including General Packenham, their commander) died. Americans counted seven dead. (Many others died of exposure and disease.)

Historians tell us that the British needed the port of New Orleans so much that, had they won, they would have occupied New Orleans immediately. For, although the treaties to end the war had been signed, they had not been ratified by the countries involved.

Imagine the shock and consternation of the Creoles living in New Orleans! Suppose the governor of Mexico suddenly appeared in _____ (your city) and said to _____(your mayor), "You are now the property of Mexico. You belong to us!"

Right now the flag of the United States flies over Jackson Square, but it didn't always! Jackson Square has had more different flags over it that almost any other place in the United States. In the very beginning, not long after Columbus discovered America, the Spanish came here looking for gold. Of course, there were no cities yet, so no Jackson Square, but the land belonged to the Spanish. Then the French came floating down the Mississippi River, led by a man named LaSalle, who claimed the land for France. Later the French started the city and put up their flag.

Soon, though, the King of France needed a present for the King of Spain, so he gave all the land back - and up went the Spanish flag.

Spain took over, but they weren't really too interested in New Orleans and didn't arrive for quite a while. When they finally got here, they were definitely NOT welcome by the French citizenry, who had no desire to become "Spanish." One rebellious group even cut the anchor chain on the new Spanish governor's boat and sent him drifting off down the river. The anchor, with its chain still attached, was found during excavation for the Rivergate Convention Center. It is now in the Maritime Museum.

Then Spain gave New Orleans back to the French - not to a king but to the Emperor Napoleon, and the French flag flew again. The people here must have been very confused! When Napoleon needed money to pay his army, he sold New Orleans and all of Louisiana - which was much bigger than it is now - to the United States. That was called the "Louisiana Purchase." So the stars and stripes went up the flagpole. Can you name the states included in the Louisiana Purchase? Who was United States President?

New Orleans, at this time, had North America's most fully developed free black community, largely responsible for the evolution of Africanized music, dance, folklore, art and cooking.

But then there was a war. Not with people who lived across oceans, but with other Americans who lived north of us, in places like New York and Boston and Chicago, and that was awful, because sometimes, it was brothers and sisters having a terrible, terrible fight. During that war - the War Between the States - we had two more flags, the state flag of Louisiana and the flag of the Confederate States. Finally the war was over, the fighting stopped and the flag of the United States has been there ever since, and we like it this way.

It was during the War Between the States that the Emacipation Proclamation, ending slavery, was issued. Many of the former slaves had been brought to Louisiana from Portugese Angola and were very knowledgeable carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, cooks and cattlemen. They were also very often the agricultural experts on the plantations surrounding the city. Black residents of Louisiana have also traditionally been soldiers. They helped France establish the new colony of Louisiana. They fought with the Spanish against the British during the Revolutionary War. They fought with the United States in the Battle of New Orleans.

THE PONTALBA BUILDINGS (2) & (3)

If you look on either side of the park, you'll see two three-story red brick buildings - each a whole block long. **The Pontalba Buildings** were the first apartment buildings in this country. They were built over 130 years ago by a very rich and headstrong lady. Her name was (are you ready for this?) the Baroness Micaela Almonaster y de la Ronde Pontalba. How would you like to have to learn to spell that name? See if you can find the letters "A P" in the fancy railings of these buildings? These are the first letters of the lady's father's name, Almonaster - the A - and her name, Pontalba - the P. The Baroness Micaela was frequently seen hoisting her long skirts and climbing the ladders to supervise the work. Her first tenant was the famous opera singer, Jenny Lind, who lived there at no charge while she sang at the French Opera House. Of course, when Jenny Lind went back to New York, the Baroness sold every piece of furniture in the apartment at a very high price, saying that it had been used by Jenny Lind. Times haven't changed very much, have they?

The "Upper" Pontalba Building (2) is so called because it is upriver from the "Lower" Pontalba (3). Here, at Jackson Square, in New Orleans - a city on the east bank of a river flowing generally south - the Mississippi River flows north.

I know you've been looking over at the church across the street. It's pretty, isn't it? When we walk over to that side of Jackson Square, I'll tell you about it, and the almost "twin" buildings on either side.

Let's take a closer look at the "**Upper Pontalba Building**."

Perhaps you can feel as you would have years ago walking along this row of shops. Of course, the shops are different now - but people still live upstairs and have a place of business downstairs, just like in the "olden" days.

Look at the artists along the fence. They have come from many different places and many different occupations to paint here. Although the artists must be licensed, their places on the fence are not reserved. It's first-come, first-served. There is a waiting list for licenses.

Most of them wheel all their equipment to and from the square in large colorful wooden carts.

CABILDO (4)

Now let's look at this old building, the **Cabildo**, built by the Spanish in 1795-99. It is part of the Louisiana State Museum Complex. In the past, the Cabildo has been used for many things. It's been a jail, a City Hall, and even the Louisiana Supreme Court where all the judges met. The "illustrious Cabildo" means "governing body" in Spanish.

At first the building had only two stories, but later the French mansard roof was added, making the third floor. A 1988 fire destroyed the roof and parts of the top two stories.

Remember the Baroness? It was at her insistence that the city council added the third story - thus making a "Spanish" square look "French" again. Wood from flatboats which floated down the river bringing things New Orleans people needed from cities in the north was used to build the new third floor.

You might be wondering why anyone would tear up a perfectly good boat and use the lumber to make a room! Well, flatboats, used before 1812 when the steamboat was invented, had no engines or sails. So while they could float down the river, they had no way of going back up - against the current. When they reached New Orleans, these flatboats or barges were taken apart and then the pieces of wood were used for buildings and homes. In the middle of the front of the Cabildo, under the covered walk, look at the huge wrought iron gates. This used to be the front door. This building has been renovated or made over, and you can see so many interesting things in it.

Behind the Cabildo was the jail - called in Spanish "calabozo" and changed by the "Kaintucks" who came down river on flatboats to "calaboose." One of the people who was put in jail here was a pirate named Pierre Lafitte, the brother of Jean Lafitte, one of the heroes of the battle of New Orleans. He escaped after a few months.

The first American governor of Louisiana, Governor Claiborne, put up posters, saying "Reward - $550 for capture of Jean Lafitte." The pirate supposedly countered with a reward of $1500 for Governor Claiborne!

Now walk past a little street, between the Cabildo and the St. Louis Cathedral, called **Pirates Alley**. We don't really know why it's called that, but those very famous brothers, Pierre and Jean Lafitte, visited New Orleans frequently - and everyone knew they were pirates. Maybe that's how the alley got its name.

The famous Mississippi-born author, William Faulkner, once lived on Pirates Alley.

ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL (5)

The **Saint Louis Cathedral** was rebuilt on the site of the first parish church in our city after a terrible fire burned down the original church. The money was given to rebuild the Cathedral, the Cabildo and the Presbytere by Don Andres Almonaster y Roxas - the Baroness Pontalba's father. (He is buried in the church.) The cathedral was named for St. Louis who was Louis IX, King of France. It is not named for the Sun King, Louis XIV - he was far from a saint. The original 13 colonies were founded for religious freedom. New Orleans, however, was a business venture of Catholic France. The St. Louis Cathedral is the nation's oldest cathedral in continual use.

One block behind the cathedral, on Orleans St., is the site of the original Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family, an order of black Roman Catholic nuns founded by Henriette de Lille.The first Baptist minister in the state was Joseph Willis, a free man of color from South Carolina. The Methodists allowed integrated congregations and preached against slavery in the early 19th century.

Two fires burned the French Quarter in the 18th century. In 1788, 832 buildings burned, and in 1794, 232. Since the Spanish were in control at that time and imposed their building style on the rebuilding, most of the French Quarter architecture is Spanish. Many years after the cathedral was built, the middle spire, one of the pointed parts of the roof, fell and destroyed much of the cathedral. It was restored and redesigned by architect, de Poilly.

If you look at your map of the French Quarter (which was at one time the whole city), only 13 blocks long and six blocks deep, you can see that New Orleans was not very large. Most of the people were Roman Catholics, so this church was a very important place. Since there were no daily newspapers, all the news and important announcements were nailed up on the doors of the cathedral. Can you find any of those nail holes? Go look! And take the free tour - or at least go inside for a few moments. Notice the beautiful stained glass and paintings on the very high ceilings. All the writing under the murals and the stations of the cross is in French.

As we walk on, past the cathedral, we pass **Pere Antoine Alley**, named after the beloved priest of the cathedral. Think about that: on each side of the church we have a street - one named for the "bad guys" and one for the "good guys."

PRESBYTERE (6)

Keep walking to the Presbytere. It looks almost exactly like the Cabildo and is the second building we've seen today which is part of the Louisiana State Museum Complex. Instead of having just one, we have a group of museums, all showing you how much fun history can be.

The Presbytere was built as a house for priests of the cathedral. Then the city bought it to use as a courthouse, before it became a museum. There are so many things in there that are really fun to see.

When you leave the Presbytere, walk left and turn right at the corner. You'll be walking on St. Ann St. between Jackson Square and the Lower Pontalba Building. On St. Ann, you will pass Brocato's Ice Cream Parlor, one of the best places to taste your Italian heritage! There is also a visitor information center here that will provide you with maps and other information to other sights and points of interest around the city.

1850 HOUSE (7)

Now move to the middle of the block, on St Ann St., to the 1850 House. Tours are given to groups of 25 (maximum) on the hour. Call in advance for reservations. The 1850 House is really a townhouse. In it, you can see just how people lived in New Orleans before the America Civil War. If you had lived in New Orleans in 1850, perhaps you would have lived in a house like this - a store or business downstairs and home upstairs. Just in case your family rented the store to someone else, there is a private family entrance. The 1850 House is also part of the Louisiana State Museum Complex.

CAFE DU MONDE (8)

Now continue on St. Ann St., crossing Decatur St. - it's a busy one, so obey the lights - and you can see and taste something I'll bet you've never had anywhere else. The building almost in front of you is the **Cafe du Monde** - a good place to rest after all the walking you've been doing. Here you can eat square French doughnuts, with no holes, hot from the kitchen and sprinkled with lots of powdered sugar. They are called **beignets** (ben-yea). Most adults eat them with cafe au lait (coffee with milk), but beignets are also delicious with milk - chocolate milk, if you like.

AUNT SALLY'S (9)

Walk past the Cafe du Monde to 810 Decatur and **Aunt Sally's**, the first shop on the right. Most days between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (even Sundays), you can watch **pralines** being made at Aunt Sally's. It's really fun to watch the cooks stir the big pots of brown sugar and pecans - and then drop spoonsful of the hot mixture on the cool counter to harden into New Orleans' own candy. Try one! I'm sure you'll like it.

Now let's keep going. There are many more interesting shops along this street, even another that makes pralines! Take time to look in the windows and visit any of the many fine shops you see.

FRENCH MARKET

No visit to Jackson Square would be complete without seeing the **French Market.** Not so long ago, it was all very different. The shops weren't new and pretty. The French Market was a row of open sheds where fishermen and farmers came every day to sell their fish and crabs, oysters and shrimp as well as all kinds of fruits and vegetables. People say that even before the city was here, the Choctaw Indians had a trading post at this very spot. Those who operated the stalls in the French Market represented almost every ethnic group in New Orleans - first the Indians, then blacks, Frenchmen, Greeks, Italians, Spaniards and orientals.

JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (10)

The Jean Lafitte National Historical Park at 419 Decatur St. offers several free tours. ***Call in advance*** 504-589-2636 for the tour schedule or to make reservations. Be sure to go inside and see the historical exhibit on the walls. Walking tour leaves at 9:30 a.m. every morning. The park also offers some great maps for other self guided walking tours of other sights and points of interest around the city.

MADAME JOHN'S LEGACY (11)

Madame John's Legacy at 632 Dumaine St is a rare surviving example of French colonial architecture in New Orleans. It was built following the great fire of 1788 during the Spanish colonial period. The name Madame John's Legacy comes from a short story by the famous nineteenth century author George Washington Cable. In "Tite Poulette," the house was owned and lost by Madame John, a free woman of color. The museum houses very few displays, as it is mostly revered for it's architectural significance. Contact the LA State Museum to establish tour times.

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (12)

The park offers some great maps for other self guided walking tours of sights and points of interest around the city pertaining to the city's jazz heritage. Girl Scouts Louisiana East also has a patch program called *The Art of Jazz* which was created with the help of the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park and many of the requirements for the patch can be completed by visiting this park.

HERMANN-GRIMA GALLIER HOUSES (13 & 14)

The Hermann-Grima/Gallier Historic Houses invites Girl Scouts to step back in time and explore the excitement, wonder and history of the Vieux Carre. A special $10 per Girl Scout tour, includes a tour of the Hermann-Grima House and a hands-on living history program in our historic open hearth kitchen. Contact the Hermann-Grima/Gallier Historic Houses' Education Coordinator in advance at 504-525-5661 to schedule a time.

BEAUREGARD-KEYES HOUSE (15)

This historical house will amaze the eyes and the nose with exhibits of art and heirlooms from a story filled past and its beautiful garden. The house is open for guided tours Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the hour for walk ups. To arrange special group tours at other times, call: 504-523-7257.

OLD URSULINE CONVENT (16)

Completed in 1753, this former convent, school, archbishop residence, and Louisiana legislature meeting place at 1116 Chartres St. is said to be the oldest building in the Mississippi Valley. Open Monday - Saturday for self guided walking tours for $3 per person. Special tour guides and presentations can be set up in advance by calling 504-525-9585 ext. 21.

LAFITTE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP (17)

Jean Lafitte: privateer, entrepreneur, sailor, diplomat, spy, hero of the Battle of New Orleans, Lafitte led a colorful and mysterious life in the New World. It is unclear where and when Lafitte was born, but his presence in New Orleans and Barataria dates about 1770. This National Historical Landmark at 941 Bourbon St. is believed to have been used by the Lafitte Brothers, Jean and Pierre as a New Orleans base for their Barataria smuggling operation. Lafitte was the man to see for whatever one wanted. The pirate became known as the Hero of the Battle of New Orleans when in 1814, as the British lay at the mouth of the Mississippi River, Lafitte rushed powder, flint, troops and other supplies to General Jackson at Chalmette. Be careful now, however, this building has become an adult beverage spot, reputed to be the oldest structure used as such in the United States. The outer facade and outdoor patio do, however provide a unique look at the historical landmark.

THE CORNSTALK FENCE (18)

A very rare type of fence here at 915 Royal St., only one other like it in the city. Though the fence was erected several years after he lived here, the home belonged to Judge Francois-Xavier Martin, the first Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court and author of the first history of Louisiana, he lived here from 1816 - 1826. You can learn more about him and other past elected officials as you tour the Royal Street Courthouse. The house is now a highly sought after hotel with only 4 rooms!

PRESERVATION HALL (20)

Since opening its doors to the public in 1961, it has been the mission of Preservation Hall to showcase and nurture the national treasures of traditional New Orleans Jazz music. The nightly performances at 726 St. Peter Street. feature the finest traditional jazz players New Orleans has to offer. All ages welcome, though doors do not open till 8 p.m.

MERIEULT HOUSE (21)

The 1792 Merieult House at 533 Royal Street is an elegant French Quarter museum that displays authentic maps, documents, artifacts, photographs and more in a series of inviting galleries War, peace, prosperity, exploration—the whole story unfolds here in compelling colorful detail. Call in advance to make reservations for your troop to tour the galleries 504-523-4662.

ROYAL ST. COURTHOUSE (22)

Visit the home of the Louisiana Supreme Court and tour the 1908 Beaux Artes courthouse which also houses the Louisiana Law Library and state law museum. Learn about the people and events which helped frame the civil law tradition that is unique to Louisiana and how the once abandoned building, came back to life in 2004 as a thriving courthouse. The building is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. This tour is mandatory for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Call the Louisiana Supreme Court Community Relations Department in advance to schedule a tour at 504-310-2590.

STEAMBOAT NATCHEZ (24)

Complete your tour of New Orleans with a ride aboard the steamboat and complete the River Heritage patch program. For more information including departure times and tour packages, contact the New Orleans Steamboat Company at 504-569-1484.

A FEW OF NEW ORLEANS' MOST INTERESTING WOMEN

Madame Langlois - In the early 1700's, she arrived in New Orleans to be the housekeeper for her cousin, Bienville. Bienville sent her to live with the Indians for a month or so to learn their methods of cooking and use of spices and herbs. She is referred to as "the Mother of Creole Cooking."

The Ursuline Nuns - A group of courageous women who travelled for seven months to reach New Orleans (the last five days were spent paddling up the Mississippi, sitting on top of their luggage in pirogues). They were New Orleans' first nurses and teachers.

One of the nuns, Mother Madeleine Hachard de St. Stanislaus, wrote a series of letters to her father in France, describing her travels. You can read them in Basso's The World from Jackson Square (Farrar and Strauss, New York), which is available at the public library.

Another of the Ursuline nuns, Mother Xavier, was the first woman pharmacist in the United States.

Baroness Micaela Almonaster y Pontalba - described in the Jackson Square section of the tour. Her house in Paris is now the home of the United States' Ambassador to France.

Margaret Gaffney Haughery - One of those magnificent people who overcame all the obstacles that slow others down, Margaret was orphaned at nine, widowed as a young woman, and her only child died soon after her husband. She then devoted her life to helping the poor. To support her work, she founded a very successful bakery and later, a dairy - although she couldn't read or write.

She never neglected the poor families, even when General Butler, the Union General in the War Between the States, threatened to put her in jail for crossing his picket lines.

After she died, the grateful City of New Orleans erected a statue to her. This statue was believed to be the first public monument erected to a woman in the United States, but the monument on Dustin Island, N.H., to Mrs. Hannah Dustin who, in 1697, was captured by native American Indians but heroically escaped before being sold into slavery, antedates it by ten years. You can see "The Bread Lady's" monument today, close to the Greater New Orleans Bridge in the triangle where Prytania and Camp Streets come together.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini - Although born in Italy, she is considered the first American saint of the Roman Catholic Church because she was a naturalized American and founded her religious order of nuns here.

St. Elizabeth Seton - the first native-born American saint of the Roman Catholic Church, she founded the Sisters of Charity, who, among many other good works, have nursed the sick at Charity Hospital of New Orleans.

Henriette Azlille and Juliette Gaudin - two young free women of color, founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1842. This was the first order of black nuns in the United States. It was, and still is, devoted to teaching black girls and helping the orphaned and the aged. Henriette died in 1862, during the War Between the States.

Pearl Rivers - When her husband, George Nicholson, died, she took over his newspaper and became the first woman publisher in the United States - a very successful one, too! She also founded an organization in New Orleans which grew into the SPCA.

Madame Justine Couvent - who died in the 1830's, was a wealthy free woman of color who established the first free school for Negroes in the United States. Madame Couvent, who was born in Africa and was the wife of Bernard Couvent, owned many slaves and much real estate. Although she could not read or write, she carried out her dream of making it possible for others to learn.

Mrs. Edgar B. Stern (Edith Rosenwald) - A modern-day miracle worker, she was chosen the outstanding woman in New Orleans during the first 100 years of its existence by The Times-Picayune. She was an outstanding philanthropist and a friend of presidents and left her beautiful home as a museum to be enjoyed by all - Longue Vue Gardens.

Dorothy Dix (Elizabeth Merriwether Gilmer) - began as a crime reporter for the local newspaper and adopting the name "Dorothy Dix," became the first advice columnist in the United States - the first Ann Landers! Her column was translated into other languages and read all over the world. She was also an active supporter of women's suffrage and causes affecting working women.

Lindy Boggs (Corinne Claiborne Boggs) - A former congresswoman from New Orleans, she has been active in women's and civil rights legislation, as well as other viable issues. She is a descendant of the first American governor of Louisiana.

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Pinch, Larry Callen's marvelous stories about a boy in bayou country.

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